**Description of Reading Journal:**

What is a reading journal? A reading journal is a place where students comment about the literature they are currently reading. There really is no right or wrong answer in a reading journal. Students may make comments about the author’s writing style, specific scenes or passages in the text, ideas they have while reading, their own personal experience that they are reminded of while reading, something they relate to in the text, etc.

**Sample Reading Journal Questions**:

* What point of view is the author writing from? First person? Third person? Omniscient?
* Is there a specific scene, passage, quote, etc. that sticks out to you? Why?
* Can you relate to a certain scene in the text? Why?
* How did you feel reading this text? Have you – or someone you know – ever experienced something similar?
* What do you think will happen next in the story? Why?
* Do you like this text? Why or why not?
* If you could change something in the text, what would it be and why?
* Can you make any connections to other texts we have read?
* What is the main character like? If you knew this person, would he/she be your friend? Why or why not?
* Can you describe the main character based on what the text says? If not, how do you envision the main character in your own mind?
* Does this make you think of anything outside of school? Any current issue in the news, government, etc.
* Does the text make you feel happy or sad? Why?
* Were there any parts that confused you?
* If you were in the main character’s shoes (or another character’s shoes), what would you do and/or how would you feel?
* Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your own life or characters in other texts we have read?
* Finish the statement:
  + If I were the character…
  + A quote I liked or reacted to strongly is…
  + I wonder about...
  + This reminds me of...
  + I predict...
  + This line is interesting/ challenging/ puzzling because...
  + I now understand why/how/what...
  + I was surprised by...
  + Some questions I have are...
  + I'm confused about...